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## FHCQ | Social Needs and Health Equity Steering Committee

Advancing Equity Workgroup  
June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Virtual

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### MEMBERS PRESENT

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Abigail Berube, MPH, Washington State  
Hospital Association  
Michael Garret, MSW, Consultant

Karie Nicholas, MSc, Foundation for Health Care  
Quality

### STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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Nick Locke, MPH, Bree Collaborative  
Emily Robson, DNP, RN, Bree Collaborative

### WELCOME

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Mr. Locke welcomed everyone to the Advancing Equity workgroup, a subgroup of the Foundation for Health Care Quality's Social Need and Health Equity steering committee. Members briefly introduced themselves and their roles.

**Action:** Adopt May Minutes

### DISCUSS: COMMENTS ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

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Mr. Locke shared the outreach process for the draft recommendations. Unfortunately, given the quick turnaround, we did not receive many comments on our draft recommendations. WSMA is still considering providing comments through their DEI workgroup, but these comments would arrive later than this meeting. Additionally, we received some high-level comments as well as feedback from presentations in early June. The workgroup discussed comments and how to make changes.

- WSR 22-13-187
  - The DOH has new sociodemographic requirements for inpatient hospitals through the CHARS dataset. Many hospitals are especially confused about SOGI data standards. Members discussed how to respond.
  - Offer best practices for the principles of developing SOGI data standards: including allowing people to prefer not to answer, ensuring SOGI fields are not binary/mutually exclusive, and turning to nationally recognized organizations to develop standards, such as the WA State LGBTQ Commission.
  - Additionally, the workgroup discussed how to advocate for change/alignment across data fields, including alignment with HRSA categories required by FQHCs and schools.
  - We may also consider a statement in support of changing the standards in a process that is able to be updated.
- Other discussion:
  - Members decided to add a comment about collecting pronouns from people/patients, as well as openly sharing pronouns to ensure alignment.
    - The members discussed adding pronouns to both the policy and data portion of the document.
  - Members discussed a process for conflict resolution that might arise from health equity trainings or scenarios (such as addressing conflict or racist remarks).

- Members discussed a process for name changes, especially legal name changes, and ensuring that clinics are able to use “preferred names” or “nicknames” with patients if a legal name change is not complete.
- Members discussed a process for using technology to improve access.
- Finally, the workgroup discussed statements to recognize that health equity is ongoing work that requires input from lived experience, and a statement about intersectionality and how inequities are related across dimensions of inequality.

#### **DISCUSS: SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS**

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Mr. Locke shared next steps for the workgroup.

- The draft recommendations will be edited given the conversation today.
- The final recommendations will be presented at the Steering Committee meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The steering committee will shift to focus on implementation through the end of 2023.

#### **NEXT STEPS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER**

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Mr. Locke thanked all for attending and closed the meeting. This is the final workgroup before moving toward implementation efforts. Workgroup members are invited to stay involved with the Steering Committee’s implementation efforts.

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